

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A Hg-free metal halide lamp comprising a substantially cylindrical discharge vessel with a ceramic wall having an internal diameter  $D_i$ , an internal length  $L_i$  and a wall thickness  $W_t$ , and filled with an ionizable filling, wherein two electrodes are present having a mutual distance  $E_A$  for maintaining a discharge in the discharge vessel, wherein the filling comprises an inert gas and a metal halide, wherein the internal length  $L_i$  is smaller than 8 mm, wherein the electrode distance  $E_A$  and the internal diameter  $D_i$  comply with the relation  $E_A/D_i > 2$ , wherein the inert gas pressure  $P_{Xe}$  at room temperature is at least 5 bar, and wherein the wall thickness  $W_t$  and the internal diameter  $D_i$  comply with the relation  $W_t/D_i > 0.15$ .
2. (original) A lamp according to Claim 1, wherein the length of the cylindrical outer surface of the discharge vessel  $L_o$  is at least 8 mm, preferably at least 9 mm.
3. (currently amended) A lamp according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the metal halide comprises at least 40 :mol/cm<sup>3</sup> of a rare earth iodide.

4. (currently amended) A lamp according to Claim 1, ~~2 or 3~~, wherein the metal halide comprises between 20 :mol/cm<sup>3</sup> and 140 :mol/cm<sup>3</sup> ZnI<sub>2</sub>.

5. (currently amended) A lamp according to ~~any one of the previous Claims 1—4~~ claim 1, wherein  $L_i < 7.5$  mm, preferably  $L_i < 6.8$  mm, more preferably  $L_i < 6.2$  mm.

6. (currently amended) A lamp according to ~~any one of the previous Claims 1—5~~ claim 1, wherein  $EA/D_i > 3$ , preferably  $EA/D_i > 4$ .

7. (currently amended) A lamp according to ~~any one of the previous Claims 1—6~~ claim 1, wherein  $P_{Xe} > 10$  bar, preferably  $P_{Xe} > 15$  bar.

8. (currently amended) A lamp according to ~~any one of the previous Claims 1—7~~ claim 1, wherein  $W_t/D_i > 0.2$ , preferably  $W_t/D_i > 0.25$ , more preferably  $W_t/D_i > 0.3$ .

9. (currently amended) A lamp according to ~~any one of the previous Claims 1—8~~ claim 1, wherein the discharge vessel is surrounded by a transparent substantially cylindrical gas filled

outer bulb having its wall at a distance which is less than 1 mm, preferably less than 0.5 mm.

10. (currently amended) A lamp according to ~~any one of the previous Claims 1—9~~claim 1, wherein the discharge vessel is provided with coated areas for increasing the coldest spot temperature.